

To TH-----S S-----RS.

Auditor (T. Smith) present

S I R,

IT is no new thing to hear men of the blackest complexion, or of the most ignominious character, addressing persons candid and impartial, and even appealing to the venerable public for the patronage of their vices: Many which are oftentimes so very flagrant, that defences, made in the way of public appeal, do but exhibit them in a more conspicuous point of view; and that of recrimination, in laying the blame upon other men of established credit and reputation, is like one throwing a stone at a wall, which violently rebounds back upon the person's head for his destruction. How far Mr S-----rs has exemplified the truth of this observation, will appear in the sequel.

It was with some degree of pleasure that I entertained the report of your intention, to vindicate your conduct in the late political proceedings of this City.--With the eagerness of an honest heart and a good citizen, I grasped at the first copy I could procure; and throwing aside that malicious prejudice, the tide of which, as you insinuate, runs high against you, I read with wonder, and wondered as I read! How! can this be the production of T-----s S-----rs, and the expected paper I wished might dispel that cloud of infamy which has so long been suspended, and has at last burst forth in so liberal a profusion? Is this the candid state that the public was made to expect to wipe away the accusation of duplicity of conduct, open breach of the most solemn engagements, and to close the mouths of the most malicious of your enemies? O excellent young man! Nature sure never intended thee for a dull mechanic; thy seraphic and soaring genius is much better adapted to the lofty subject of politics, and fits thee for shining in the celebrated circle of our City Counsellors, like the Moon amidst the lesser stars. But, Sir, to come to the matter contained in your letter to the public, which, when weighed in the scale of common sense, will be found destitute of truth, and every way calculated for overturning your design.

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FIRST,

FIRST, then, Sir, I agree with you, it would be in vain to enter into a detail of all the minutiae concerning the origin of the present political City-contest--- I only must beg leave to differ from the Magistrate's account of that alluded to in yours.---It is indeed a very particular one, done in his own way, for his own purpose and design: But, for my part, Sir, I take it, in short, to be a brave and noble-spirited emulation, exciting the Chief Magistrate and others, to attempt throwing off the chain of servitude, wreathed about the necks of the public, by a few cunning, crafty, self-interested men; and that with an intention to put the metropolis of Scotland upon as respectable a footing as any borough of the realm.---You say, that when you heard of an opposition to the independent plan, you determined to support it as far as lay within the compass of your abilities. Now, Sir, let me ask you, when you formed this resolution, What interest or power had you to execute it? You was neither Deacon of your trade, nor member of Council; and, was it laudable in you to procure a place in order to deceive, at the expence of your repeated oaths and other engagements? You indeed aver, that you never understood that the interest of Sir L—— D——s was meant to be injured by the prosecution of this new independent scheme, till some time thereafter, when your eyes were opened by the application of the salvo of gold dust, which I acknowledge is more calculated for obscuring than enlightening the eyes of men of a pure character; but to one, Sir, of your stamp, m—y answers every objection, and removes all scruples. This at once accounts for the change of your sentiments, in pouring so illiberal abuse upon the opposite party: For, Sir, such a design against Sir L——'s interest, as you mention, never was intended, as appears from the declaration of the United Incorporations of Mary's Chapel, to which I profess a greater regard than to imagine, that they, like a weather-cock, would so easily change their sentiments as you have done: But it is no uncommon thing for men infected with a jaundiced disease, to imagine that others are in the same situation with themselves. I mean now to speak a little more close, and though my words may appear daggers, none I'll use.—Was you not in the house of Mr Sommers vintner, on Saturday the 14th current, in the evening, along with the greatest part of the incorporation of Mary's Chapel? Did you not there, before eight Deacons and others, with repeated vows, yea, even the



the most solemn oaths, engage to support Provost Stodart in all the steps of election, and to vote for Francis Brodie to be Convener? You must answer in the affirmative; and now I mean more clearly to exhibit the Arcana of your sudden alteration of sentiment. Your W—fe, *your obedient* W—fe, remembered well the advice which you, like honest *Iago*, had often given her, *Go to, put money enough in your purse*; and the good pious lady having the interest of her husband much at heart, stalked forth, though at an hour rather late, in a cold harvest night, till, with unwearied pace, she reached the shop of J——s B——e grocer, whom she sent to the tavern for her husband; but the good man, knowing not of the precious things prepared for him at home, gave an express refusal, till this loving spouse, braving danger, sallied forth to the street, directing her course straight to the tavern, where she, displaying all the powers of female oratory, united with the all-conquering charms of g—ld, soon convinced the husband of his error. Next morning the son of the B——t, accompanied by Deacon W——m J——n, waited upon the new made D——n; and immediately a letter was dispatched, addressed to Mr F. Brodie, informing him of the sudden change of sentiment. The public now see this gentleman promising, protesting, swearing, at a late hour of the evening, to support the Lord Provost in every step of the election, and vote for F. Brodie to be Convener, and before the next day his mind is totally changed: However, this is only Mr S——rs acting suitable to his true and genuine character, of being, in reality, at one time quite different from what he is in appearance at another: For, not above four years ago, this gentleman engaged to support Mr W——m S——tt with his vote and interest to be Deacon for the then ensuing year; he was then Mr S——tt's intimate companion, to whom he naturally communicated his secrets; and he, along with his wife, made frequent visits to Mr S——tt's house, particularly on an occasion when Mr S——tt had invited, some time before the election, the friends in his interest. Mr S——rs thought proper not to make his appearance along with his wife, who affected great surprise at the non-attendance of her husband. However, after she had got particular notice of the whole company, and their intentions, she immediately marched off to the tavern, where her husband was assembled with those of the opposite interest.

terest. Mr S——tt remonstrated a little warmly next day to the lady, upon this piece of her very extraordinary conduct, which afforded Mr S——rs the excuse wished for, “ That he could not give his vote to a man who accused his wife of double-dealing.”

IN your Letter, you set out clothed with the vain plumes and feathers of an imaginary title, to which, by your character, you had no real right; but when wrapt in your black robe, you think you are sufficiently screened from all just charge that is laid against you; and who but you! “ an equal to my Lord Provost himself!” till tipped with the fatal touch of the messenger’s rod, by which you are suddenly metamorphosed from a man of very great importance, to be an inhabitant of a mansion suitable to your character. It is strange to see you appealing to men of *candour*, to your *constituents*, to the *Lord Provost*, or *Mr Brodie*, concerning the impossibility of your acting any other way than you did, when most of these, if not the whole, and particularly Mr Brodie, are clear to give their verdict against you, and that you have acted a most v——s part, in opposition to your repeated promises and oaths.

WHAT you observe concerning the tyrannical principles of the opposite interest, from the specimen about the Cowgate Bridge, is an absurd contradiction: For, Sir, though that was a matter of speculation for some time, when these worthy gentlemen did not find the proposal acceptable to the public, they dropt it. Where then is the smallest degree of tyranny? I must also observe, that the said bridge was publicly opposed by the present Lord Provost and his friends, as injurious to the community, and burdensome to individuals, upon the plan then proposed.

As to what you observe, of your having no certainty of the authenticity of the reports concerning my Lord Provost’s plan, till a communing you had with him in his own counting room, it is a bare-faced falsehood, equally untrue, as the publishing in your letter only a part of his Lordship’s conversation with you, is ungenteel. His Lordship, by your account, said, “ *That the one party could do more for you than the other;*” and you replied, “ *That you hoped to stand in no need of assistance from either party:*”

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How consistent your hopes were with your circumstances, let the candid examine, after they hear of your conduct towards your aged father-in-law, who, from a state of independence, by your chicanery, has been reduced to poverty. This rather proves the very opposite, that you stood in need of the assistance of both parties : And, I do sincerely believe, was any one to give you a trifle more, you would forthwith veer about to his interest. A man of your complexion must be a most dangerous member of society.

WHAT you say concerning the preservation of the balance of power between the city and county, and your pretended fears of its being brought under the same influence, are creatures of your own brain, and never existed anywhere else.

As to the defence of your conduct concerning the election of Convener : Admitting that the one party might see cause in future times to act in opposition to Sir L——e's interest, this did by no means dissolve the obligation that lay upon you, by virtue of your own engagement and promise towards F. Brodie ; so that the charge of duplicity and dissimulation retorts with double violence upon your own head.

You complain, with great concern, about your character, and talk of the other party's injuring you by false reports ; but, I am afraid, the more it is tried, the blacker it will become ; and therefore it would have been more eligible for you to have been silent on that score : For it is the general voice, even of many of your own party, that it cannot be made worse than it really is ; and that the public censure is too well founded. But it seems you incline to act the character of one of the race of Ishmael, Your tongue being against every one, and every one against you.

OF a piece with your other conduct, is a far-fetched slur upon Mr Brodie, accusing him for borrowing the name of a worthy Baronet to authenticate some of the charges against you : So far as I am credibly informed, he never spoke of you to any Baronet, nor did any Baronet speak to him of you, having no occasion either

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for

for the exalted authority, or the capacious purse of a Baronet, to prove any such thing—it being well known to all concerned.

It is extremely common to see men possessed of some remarkable foible or wickedness, utterly insensible of it. This seems to be your case, when you talk so high of dissingenuity and duplicity of conduct, as if you was scarcely capable of them; when it appears, by your behaviour, there are few more dissingenuous and double, so far as lies within the compass of your small abilities. The epithets of cruel and unjustifiable, which you apply to the steps taken against you, are extremely improper; for nobody can be blamed for using every method which the law points out for obtaining their own: Still more improper are your reflections upon an honest man, whom you have, with uncommon assurance, stigmatized with the name of *Renegade*, and that only for his being necessarily absent from a C——l meeting: But if he did change his sentiments, as you are pleased to alledge, the reason is obvious; it was merely upon a conviction of the impropriety (to give it no worse a name) of taking the gown from an honest, creditable, respectable citizen, and putting it upon the back of an inconsistent and de——ful b———pt. Sorry I am, to see that you are so ignorant as not to know, that it has always been the glory of a man to change his sentiment from mere principle, exclusive of INTEREST and BRIBE.—To the honour would it be of the whole C——l, could they put their hand to their heart with this man, and say, That they are swayed by conscience, and not by interest.—True, Sir, you could not do as this renegade adherent has done, because he was FREE, and you in CHAINS.

You reflect upon the members of the PANTHEON, for animadverting upon your political conduct.—From some authority, I can say in this also, you are mistaken: The gentlemen of that society never considered you of such importance as to take your political conduct under their review; neither do they stand related to you as a politician, and have nothing to do with your character as such; but for your manifest and open breach of the ties of friendship, which bind that society together—It was for this that they suspended you, till you should justify your conduct to their satisfaction.

THE

THE conclusion of your letter is of a piece with its introduction; with the high sounding words of *honour*, *integrity*, and *decorum*.— Why did you not also use, as I have heard you on other occasions, these brilliant expressions of *piety*, *religion*, *virtue*, *humanity*, *morality*, &c? For shame, thou hypocrite! repent, and amend; and let this sentiment be deeply imprinted on thy mind, “That seeming devotion does but gild a knave.”

I am, SIR,

With all due respect to such an extraordinary character,

Your very obedient servant,

EDIN. Off. 1. }
1776. }

TIMOTHY AUDITOR.

